

Juanita I. Cooley  
28 Newport Street  
Mystic, CT 06355  
860-536-1984

10 February 2009

**RE: Raised House Bill 6357, An Act Creating the Offense of Cyber Stalking**

Senator Andrea Stillman, Representative Stephen Dargan, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

Thank you for proposing House Bill 6357 in order to make cyber stalking a crime in Connecticut. Thank you also for the opportunity to voice my concern about the ongoing crime of cyber stalking and harassment committed against me by my son, Kenneth F. Parks of Duluth, Georgia. I have contacted my own representative Elissa Wright and she has assured me of her support of a strong cyber stalking law. She is aware of the content of my son's web sites. In addition, she stated to me her own concerns about public safety arising from such sites as MySpace and the harm that has already come to people due to these kinds of web sites that are characterized by harassment and threats against people. People have died as a result of being cyber stalked and we need strong laws preventing this from happening to me, my family, and the other victims that my son is cyber stalking. This is why other states, such as Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Washington, have enacted strong cyber stalking laws so as to protect their citizens.

As the mother of Kenneth F. Parks and Paulette J. Buchanan, I have witnessed the decades-long history of my son's animosity against his sister, his other brothers, against his own daughter, against his ex-wife and her family, against his former friends, and against myself. Since the 1980s my son Kenneth has shown more and more signs of mental instability and violence. He was not this way when he was younger, but something happened in his mind around the time he joined a cult in Georgia in the early 1980s. I worked with my daughter Paulette in contacting child protective services to try to get help for my grandchildren and mental health treatment for my son Kenneth, especially after I witnessed his child abuse against my grandchildren in the late 1980s, but we constantly ran up against disbelief and belittlement of my son's behavior against his own children and against his other family members. All the steps we as a family took to get help for my grandchildren were met with apathy and lack of law enforcement.

Since 2000 my son Kenneth has posted over 20 web sites accusing my daughter Paulette and me of child abuse. We have worked with previous web host owners to get nearly 20 of those previous web sites removed because they violated those web host companies' Terms of Service. But as soon as one of my son's web sites are taken down, he posts more of them with other web host companies. We cannot get the current web host companies to honor their stated Terms of Service to remove my son's web sites. Additionally, my son posts harassing and libelous statements about his victims on chat rooms. We have been able to have some of those chat rooms remove his statements, but other chat room administrators refuse to honor their own stated Terms of Service and remove his posts. My son identifies me on his web sites by photograph, name, town and state. **There would be no other reasons why he would post my photograph,**

name, and where I live on the Internet unless he was trying to incite someone to harm me. My husband died last year, and I am elderly, disabled and I live alone in my home. I am in reasonable fear that either my son will come to Connecticut to harm me or he will succeed through his web sites to incite someone else to harm me. I am also in reasonable fear that he will cause harm to my daughter Paulette and her husband Scott, and to all of his other cyber stalked victims, either by his own hand or by inciting someone through his web sites and chat rooms posts. It is obvious that the only reason he is putting up so much personal information on the Internet about his victims is because he wants harm to come to us. I believe that if my son cannot get anyone to harm us that he will become frustrated and desperate enough to harm us himself. He has gotten away with so many other crimes that he obviously has no fear of being caught, even if he should murder us. What I am most afraid of is that my son has stated to some of his family and indicated on his web sites and on chat room posts that he believes he is appointed by God to go after his victims.

I am having additional health problems from the stress that my son Kenneth is causing me. I am angered at the state's lack of law enforcement that I have witnessed since the late 1980s for the crimes my son Kenneth has committed for decades now. In October of 2007 I met with state's attorney Michael Regan along with my daughter, son-in-law, and Linda Orange's legislative aide. My daughter and her husband previously met with the Norwich state's attorney earlier that year. I am angry that we have all been prevented by the Norwich and New London State's Attorney's office from getting any more arrest warrants than just the one my daughter has against Kenneth despite the fact that my son has continued to harass, threaten, and terrorize us all. We need a strong cyber stalking law.

I am deeply angered and distressed about my son's web sites accusing my daughter and me of committing the crime of child abuse. In the late 1980s my daughter and I trustingly helped my son after he told us he had left the cult he had joined in Georgia. I took him into my home. He did not initially want to have anything more to do with his children but my daughter and I convinced him that he had to try to get them out of the abuse that they were going through in the cult. My son's divorce documents demonstrate that there was verifiable abuse taking place in the cult's school. My son also told us that his ex-wife was abusing the children but that he was not abusive toward his children. I took out over \$15,000 of my retirement savings, and my daughter loaned Kenneth approximately \$2,000, to pay for an attorney in Georgia to represent my son and aim for child custody. Kenneth promised us and the court that he would seek counseling for himself and his children.

Custody was awarded to my son because of his promise to get counseling and because he lived with me and I provided a stable home for the children. My daughter was also available to help her brother and her young nephews and niece. But after Kenneth was awarded custody of his children his lies to us became apparent. He became increasingly more abusive to us and to his children, who had many behavior problems, and he would abandon the children for days without telling me or anyone else where he was. I was working full time during this period of time. My son had originally hired different babysitters to watch the children soon after he got custody, but because the children were so violent to each other and to other children, each of the babysitters refused to watch the children anymore. During the 14 months that he lived in my house with the children my daughter Paulette and I contacted Connecticut's Department of Children and Youth Services (DCYS), since renamed the Department of Children and Families (DCF). My daughter and I gave eye-witnessed accounts to the DCYS case manager of my son's abuse and neglect, yet my son lied to the case manager and intimidated his children to back up

his lies by telling the case manager that I was the one abusing the children. I was deeply hurt and angry at my son's lies and accusations. Since I could get absolutely no help whatsoever from state officials I had turned to for help, I then gave my son dated notice that he was to find other housing for himself and the children. During this immensely stressful time I suffered a mild heart attack. My son refused to leave my house. When the date came for my son to leave according to the notice I had given him, the police were called. I insisted that Kenneth move out of my house, yet he showed a fraudulent "rental agreement" that I had never signed (my son lived rent-free in my house), and he lied to the police about having an attorney who told him to continue living in my house. In the early hours of the morning I was finally able to evict my son Kenneth and his children from the house. I hated what this incident did to my grandchildren.

In a previous visitation incident with his ex-wife while my son lived in my house, he had made her sign an agreement about the specific time she was to return the children to him. Her copy stated a later time than the carbon copy he kept for himself but didn't show her (which had her signature on it because of the carbon paper). When the time on his copy had passed, he called the police on his ex-wife and lied to them that she had kidnapped the children because she hadn't brought them home by the time his copy stated. His ex-wife was picked up by the police and she showed them her copy of the agreed upon time and they noticed that the time on her copy was later than the time on Kenneth's copy. He should have been charged with making a false complaint, but like all of the other crimes he has committed, no laws were enforced against my son.

After my son moved out of my house with my grandchildren, my ex-daughter-in-law's family contacted DCYS several times to report his neglect and abuse against the children. When my son lived in Rocky Hill his neighbors also called the police several times because my son left his then young children alone in his apartment and they were yelling, screaming, and crying often. At one point a Rocky Hill police officer took his youngest child, his then 5 year old daughter Rachel who was left alone in his apartment, to the police station until they could locate my son and my other grandchildren. DCYS was called and Rachel was taken into DCYS custody. But we cannot understand why DCYS returned Rachel to her father's custody, and why they did not remove all of the children from my son's custody, especially since there were already many complaints on record against my son for people's witnessed accounts of his abuse and neglect. For the sake of my grandchildren's wellbeing, my son should have been charged with child endangerment and the children should have been removed from his custody, but the laws were not enforced yet again. Even when my son fled with his children from Connecticut in the midst of yet another DCYS investigation, no enforcement of law to protect my grandchildren ever took place.

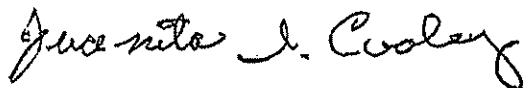
Kenneth has stalked his ex-wife and committed violence against her. He was convicted of this crime in Georgia but received only a suspended sentence. He has violated restraining orders she had against him and she has tried to have him arrested for other acts of violence and harassment but she also cannot get the laws enforced against him. In the mid-1990s I helped my ex-daughter-in-law regain full custody of her daughter Rachel. Thereafter his older sons, Joshua and Caleb, decided to leave their father on their own and move in with their mother. I am in frequent contact with Joshua, Caleb, and Rachel, and with my ex-daughter-in-law. My granddaughter has told others and me that her father would often yell at her and tell her that she was not really his daughter. My daughter and I have good reason to believe that my son molested my granddaughter Rachel, and I would be willing to testify in court about why I believe so. Rachel, now 23 years old, doesn't like to talk about details about her father but she

has told me she believes her father is hateful and mentally unstable. She has not spoken to her father in a few years. Kenneth's sons, Joshua and Caleb, also have told their mother that they believe their father has mental illness but they are still very intimidated by him and stay in contact with him only from time to time. They wish he would leave everyone alone, but they are too afraid to tell him that, probably because they are afraid that he'll put up web sites about them.

In 1993, I saw someone outside my house taking photographs from inside his car. I suspected it was my son Kenneth, and I reported this incident to the police. In recent years I found out that my son came up to Connecticut in 1993 for his high school reunion. Since my son Kenneth left Connecticut in the early 1990s he has sent me unwanted harassing letters. A few years ago I also received numerous and regular harassing telephone calls which were silent on the other end of the line. When I suspected it was my son Kenneth, I confronted him on all of the horrible things he has done to his children and to the rest of his family. After I said this I never received any more harassing telephone calls from my son.

What I have explained above is just a short history of the distress my son Kenneth has put me and so many others through. I have lived in my home for over 30 years but I am now considering having to move out of fear of my son harming me or causing someone else to harm me. I just cannot believe that this can happen and no one does anything to stop his crimes against us. Please pass into law cyber stalking bill 6357 to help put an end to my son's decades of terrorizing people and allow for the opportunity for him to finally receive the mental health treatment he's needed for so long.

Sincerely,



Juanita I. Cooley